

## "AGELESS" - MONA FREEMAN



ONA was sitting on the set i juggling her infant daughter on her knees recently when a distinguished woman visitor spied the act,

"My, do they even provide baby sitters for the actors' children?" she inquired naively.

It took several minutes remonstration by the guide to convince the lady that Miss Freeman, herself, was the child's mother and not a baby sitter.

For this attractive hazel eyed blonde, who can Jook 15 or 25 with little change in makeup, is actually in her early twenties. A tininess of build, plus an ageless face, combine to furnish her the priceless asset of a perpetually youthful appearance.

Thus Mona played a 15-year old girl in "Isn't it Romantic" and is only 16 as Joan Caulfield's kid sister in "Dear Wife," followed by "Dear Ruth."

It was this ability to look and act young which led to Mona's first real movie break in 'Dear Ruth.' However, in 'Branded' she is co-starred with Alan Ladd and portrays a mature, spirited girl in her early twenties.

At 14, Mona was modelling, mostly school age fash. He picture appeared repeatedly on magazine covers and attracted the attention of Howard Hughes who, in 1940, signed her—without seeing her—to a contract which permitted her to continue modelling until he had a screen role for her. Two years went by and Mona not only never saw Hughes, but was not given any screen work.

Late in 1943, Paramount was looking for a young girl to play the role of Barbara Stanwyck's sister in "Double Indemnity." They ran a test of Mona and Paramount bought her contract from Hughes.

But Mona's start in pictures was due for tough luck. The first few scenes made her look like a child of 12, and she was replaced.

Mona took the disappointment with only a few days of blueness—then resolved to get the best out of what the studio had to offer in the way of training. She studied hard and faithfully under the then dramatic coach, William Russell, who became one of her staunchest boosters. In "Dear Ruth," the friendship had concrete results—Russell was her director.

Mona had a bit in "Till We Meet Again," starting Ray Milland, then began a succession of loan outs to other studios. She returned to Paramount for a one-line appearance in her friend Russell's first film, "Our Hearts Were Growing Up," with Diana Lynn and Gail Russell, because she had told Russell she wished to be in his first durectorial effort.

Mona was horn in Baltimore, Maryhand, June 9, 1926 and is the daughter of Stuart and Monica Freeman. Her full name is Monica Elizabeth Freeman. The family is of English-Irish-French descent in 1946 after serving two years overseas with the Marine Corp. Mona's father is in the Immber business, and she has lived in Baltimore, Albany, N. Y. Chicago, Ill., Plainsfield, N. Y., and Washington, D. C. The family now lives at Pelham, N. Y., where Mona attended grammar and junior high schools. It was here that she started modelling.

An exceptionally talented artist, Mona has a large collection of sketches of her friends, and numerous of her oils decorate her attractive Connecticut farmhouse in Mandeville Canyon. She was married September 15, 1945 in Bewerly Hills to Pat Nerney, a young auto agency executive. They are one of the film city's most popular couples, and are frequently seen at the many social events. They attend football and baseball games regularly and their daughter, Mona Freeman Nerney, was born October 25, 1947.

Until ber marriage, Mona avoided cooking as much as possible, but now she's becoming an adept housewife.

Her favorite author is O'Henry, and she is an avid movie fan. On the stage, she prefers musicals.

She likes symphonic music as well as modern swing, and enjoys both Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. Her favorite colors are blue and green She usually wears sports clothes, and only occasionally indulges an urge for the more frilly variety

Her favorites among the actors include Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, Billy De Wolfe and Keenan Wynn. She enjoys comedy very much. Mona really isn't sure just what role she would like best for herself.

Mona has ash blonde hair, hazel eyes that border on the blue. She is 5 feet, 33/4 inches tall, weighs 110 pounds. She wears a 51/2AAA shoe.

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NO COUBT YOUR FATHER HOW AWFUL! TAKING TOLO YOU THIS MATERIAL AWAY A MAN'S NAME IS CONFIDENTIAL! AND AND GIVING HIM HERE HE IS! NUMBER! AND MY SATESTY! SASSTY!





ISN'T HE A CILLY
FOUND HIN DADDYS
FILES! SENTENCED BY
HIM WHEN HE WAS A
JUDGE! BY A LUCKY
CONCIDENCE, HE'S
GETTING PAROLED
IN TWO DAYS!













YOU SHOULON

MOUTH, OEAR!

PUT SO MUCH



















































AND SO THE SENATOR IS MANEUVERED INTO LETTING HARRY BAXTER REMAIN IN THE WILKINS' HOME....





















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ALBERT THE FIRST KUMMER! TIME HE KISSED ME! FOUR DAYS WHEN DID AFTER RUTH WAS MARRIED!

MAYBE WE CON'T
HE KISSED
FOUR DAYS
FER RUTH
MARRIED!

AND AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT... WHO SHOULD WALK IN THE DOOR ... BUT...

HOWDY-DOODY!
SENATOR ... MOTHER ...
ANO YOU, MIRIAM!
HOW'S MY LITTLE
CUTIE PIE

OH, ALBERT! WE OON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT ANYMORE! I TOLO THEM EVERYTHING!















































I'M STRONG, INTELLIGENT AND HAVE GOOD EYES. I'D MAKE A GOOD TRUCK DRIVER. YOU MIGHT. BUT WITH THAT PHYSIQUE, YOUR LOOKS AND THAT HUNDRED DOLLAR SUIT, I KNOW JUST THE DEPARTMENT FDR YOU... AS A FLOOR-WALKER











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#### COMICAL BILLY DE WOLFE



B ILLY DE WOLFE returned from London in January 1949 where he entertained the Royal Family at the annual Command Performance. Just a few weeks after Billy's return from London, the filming of "Dear Ruth" was begin-

ning. By his side at that time was Joan Caulfield, whom he had lost to Bill Holden during nine reels of hectic wooing in "Dear Ruth." Joan Caulfield and Bill Holden also appeared in "Dear Wife."

Billy is a humorist in the truest sense. He does not rely on gags or jokes to evoke laughs. Billy searches out the little human failings present in average people and turns them into things of mirth. He claims his success is due in part to the fact that so many people identify themselves or their friends with the many characters that he presents.

Billy was still Bill Jones when the manager of Boston's Quincy Theatre, at which he ushered, suggested that he change his name. The occasion was the lad's first opportunity to do a bit on-stage at the Quincy revue. Billy decided to borrow the manager's name which was —De Wolfe—and which Billy has used ever since, though Jones re"Libs his legal tag.

The comedian was born in Woolaston of Welsh parents from Pwlfheli, "Pronounced Puch-lillie," explains De Wolfe.

While ushering at the Quincy Threatre afforded him a chance to watch dancers and acrobats rehearse, and he eventually worked out a routine of his own. In time he signed on as a dancer with Jimmy Connor's touring band, visiting several towns and ending up in New York. Billy then organized his own act with two female partners, billing them-

selves as De Wolfe, Metcalfe and Ford. The trio went to London for four weeks and stayed five years. They covered the Continent between British-engagements. During his sojourn aboard, Billy was featured in several Cochran productions.

When war enveloped Europe, Billy returned to America and found himself in immediate demand in Canada and elsewhere as cabaret master of ceremonies. He modestly says his present success is due in good part to Mae Johnson, an agent who booked him into Toronto's Club Esquire and the Chez Maurice in Montreal. He commuted between these spots, Boston and Philadelphia, then broke away and tried Miami Beach. This led-to a date in New York's Raleigh Room in the Warwick Hotel where Winchell and other columnists tabbed him as sensational

Billy was not anxious for a cinema career, but 20th Century-Fox talked him into a test and Paramount borrowed the reel almost before 20th Century executives had a chance to consider it. Paramount signed him pronto and he has never worked for any other studio.

Almost in the same mail with his Paramount contract there came an invitation from Uncle Sam to join up. It wasn't a draft notice, just some Navy recruiting literature. That afternoon at the Chicago Post office, where he'd gone to mail a package, he saw a recruiting officer at a desk. So, just like that, he enlisted

Billy served twenty months in the Navy before receiving his honorable discharge. After obtaining that precious certificate he went back to Hollywood where Paramount cast him immediately in "Miss Susie Slagle's" starring Veronica Lake and Souny Tufts. This established him as a FIND, and film goers still remember his hilarious scene in the bathtub. Then came "Our Hearts Were Growing Up" and "Blue Skies."

Billy is a bachelor. He now owns his own home in San Fernando Valley. It's a Cape Cod cottage to remind him of New England. Billy is six feet 2 In tall, weighs 180 pounds and has black hair and big brown eyes.

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